

# Time for a little honesty in Jefferson City

By DAVID COOK  
President

It's about time our legislators stop trying to trick us and find a little integrity about being honest with the public.

That was the thrust of some off-the-script comments I made at a legislative committee hearing in Jefferson City while testifying on the phony "right-to-work (for less)" bills now up for consideration.

Two issues:  
• **First**, the sponsor of one of the bills, Rep. Eric Burlison (R-Springfield), said with a straight face that he was proposing this law "because I want to help union members."  
• **Second**, other Republican lawmakers pushing this effort to crush unions introduced a new deceptive "title" for the bill: seems "right-to-work" is not working as well for them now as they try to deceive the public about its true intent...so they've changed it to "Freedom to work."

"Helping" union members into work hell is what he's doing.

"Freedom!" Certainly not for workers; for employers "yes" because this is their bill to give them the freedom to pay what they want, fire workers at will and kill benefits once the unions are gone. That's the end result when RTW is law.

**I say to all of them, "How about giving us freedom from lies, freedom from deception?!"**

## TRICK US AGAIN?

I didn't mince words with them:

"Don't talk about 'helping' workers when what you are doing is hurting them and their families by trying to weaken, and ultimately destroy, their unions.

"And 'Freedom to Work' is an outright effort to once again trick the public. Why don't you have the guts to call it what it is - a freeloader bill, allowing some workers to sponge off their fellow workers by taking the benefits of their union-negotiated contract without helping to pay their fair share of those negotiating costs?"

"The RTW bills guarantee no one's free-

dom to a job, and that's what it implies. You're supposed to be representing all the people. How can you sit there and be so disingenuous by not being truthful on both accounts?"

If it sounds like I was angry...I was. I'm getting tired of legislators who feel that we the people don't have an ounce of brains in our heads. They've been watching too much TV that demonstrates if you repeat cute slogans often enough, a lot of people begin to believe them.

However, what they learned the hard way back in 1978 when RTW was trounced in a state-wide vote, was that once people have the facts, they can see through the fancy slogans and can make an informed decision.

## SAME OLD GARBAGE

But have these anti-worker forces learned anything? I guess not. They want to wrap the same old smelly garbage in a new, pretty "freedom" wrapper and hope that we the people, who cherish freedom, will accept this phony "slogan" as the new gospel.

We won't!

## FREELoader SPECIAL

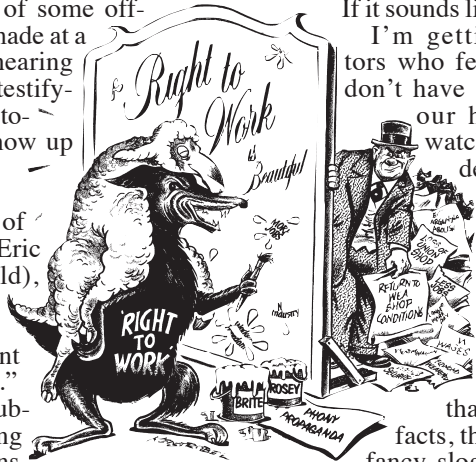
"Right-to-work," "Freedom to work." It's all the same - a freeloader's bill.

All it does is allow anyone who wants to have all the advantages of a union-negotiated contract to have them without helping to pay the costs of what it takes to win that contract. Unfortunately, there are some people who want everything for nothing and will cherish their role as freeloaders.

They will let union members pay the costs while they sponge off us. You know the old saying about "a wolf in sheep's clothing?" This is the absolute example of that truth.

**It's time those state lawmakers who want "right-to-work (for less)" at least be honest with the voters and let them know the true intent of their efforts: to bust the unions.**

It's time for a little honesty in Jefferson City, for a change.



**AN EXCLUSIVE  
TWICE MONTHLY  
REPORT FOR**

**UFCW 655  
MEMBERS &  
THEIR FAMILIES**

[www.ufcw655.com](http://www.ufcw655.com)

a VOICE for working America

right-to-work (for less) is a

# RIP OFF

You should know...

**THE BIG LIE:** A "Right-to-Work" law guarantees me a job or the "right" to a job.  
**THE TRUTH:** No. "Right-to-Work" laws have nothing to do with creating or providing jobs or protecting your job once you are hired.

RTW laws allow "at-will" employment, which means that you can be fired for any reason or no reason. The real data shows that once "Right to Work" laws are enacted, they lower wages and benefits for all workers. Workers in "Right-to-Work" states earn far less than their counterparts in Non-Right-to-Work states. It's the same effect with benefits.

## Attention members at Schnucks, Shop 'n Save and Dierbergs

Mark your calendar  
for  
Opening Contract Meetings

**Monday, March 11, 2013**  
7:00 pm  
**Holiday Inn**  
6921 S. Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63125

**Tuesday, March 12, 2013**  
7:00 pm  
**Machinists Hall**  
12365 St. Charles Rock Rd  
Bridgeton, MO 63044

**Wednesday, March 13, 2013**  
9:00 am & 7:00pm  
**UFCW 655 Union Hall**  
300 Weidman Rd.  
Ballwin, MO 63011



## Lobbying against "RTW" for less

Staff and members of Local 655 spent a day last week lobbying in Jefferson City against the anti-worker assault at the Missouri Capitol where two "right-to-work" (for less) bills and two bills to modify or do away with prevailing wage were heard before the Senate Small Business, Insurance and Industry Committee. Labor turned out in force, packing two hearing rooms and the Capitol hallway. (see full story on Page 1)

Labor Tribune photo

Please Join UFCW Local 655 for ...

## Ladies Night Out!

A social event for the ladies of Local 655  
Friday, March 1, 2013  
6 p.m. until ?

**UFCW 655 Union Hall**  
300 Weidman Rd.  
*(one block off Manchester Blvd.)*

Come on out and spend a relaxing evening getting to know your union sisters, enjoy some refreshments and conversation.

R.S.V.P. 636-736-2772 Nikki Rich  
or  
636-736-2745 Karen Settlemaier-Berg